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to bring out the principal facts in the subjects discussed. Of the eight hundred closely packed pages of fact and figure, one-fourth of the total is devoted to national and international political life. About one-half of the work is devoted to progress of the nation in the industrial field and to the advances in all of the departments of the theoretical and applied natural sciences. Something less than one hundred pages is made to cover the large fields of religion and education. An excellent index, carefully prepared with a view to actual use for the busy man, is not the least of the attractive features of the work.

Established in 1910 by conferences among members of the various national learned societies, the *American year book* has grown from year to year to be what it has come to be, the indispensable handbook of the scientist and of the business and professional man. One feature especially commends itself to the readers; there is as little as possible of the stereotyped in its makeup. Each contributor and the general management welcome criticism and are open to suggestion for improvement. This is a manual in the process of arriving at its normal growth and every vital phase of national life may have its appropriate place in its pages.

ORIN G. LIBBY

*The state.* Its history and development viewed sociologically. By Franz Oppenheimer, M.D., Ph.D., privat docent of political sciences, University of Berlin. Authorized translation by John M. Gitterman, Ph.D., LL.B. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1914. 302 p. \$1.25 net)

Following largely the theories and data presented by Gumplowicz and Ratzel, the author of this volume maintains that the right to hold more land than one can properly work through his own efforts and the efforts of his family, can exist only through that form of political control which is known as the state. He dismisses at the outset all known and accepted doctrines of public law, claiming that none of these furnish an explanation of the genesis and purpose of the state. All previous theories are condemned as class theories and it is confidently asserted that sociology alone can furnish the cause and explanation of the state.

A point of view which runs throughout the volume and which in fact is its chief message is that society is divided into two clearly defined groups, a ruling and property owning class, and a proletariat without property; or, in other words, the latter who can earn their living by their own labor and the former who live on the efforts and production of this class, forcing others by political means to render services and fees.

By a mathematical calculation which the author regards as conclusive, it is maintained that the class state can rise only where all fertile acreage

has been completely occupied and that it can have originated in no other way than through conquest and subjugation. The justification and *raison d'être* of the state are the economic exploitation of those subjugated. The form of political control resulting from the exploits of the robber-warriors and the property-owning class who subjugate and despoil the weak and poor is described in these subdivisions: "The genesis of the state," "Primitive feudal state," "Maritime state," "Developed feudal state," and "Constitutional state."

The outlook is not so pessimistic as might at first seem, for the author sees in the future a form of organization based upon a freeman's citizenship in which the class division of society based upon political domination and subjugation will cease. It is claimed that, the eternally inseparable terms, government and class-exploitation will be disassociated in the future when the state will ultimately disappear and society will be guided by the benign principles and practices of self-government.

This study furnishes an interesting and suggestive account of one phase, the socio-economic, in the development of that complex organization known as the state. It is frankly a one-sided treatment, which contains much in state development that may unfortunately be said to the discredit of humankind. To those who delight in neglecting or ignoring legal forms and practices and cultural interests and who are prone to emphasize the socio-economic viewpoint, this study will undoubtedly commend itself. It is to say the least a stimulating treatment of a somewhat neglected phase of human evolution.

CHARLES GROVE HAINES

*The life of Thomas Brackett Reed.* By Samuel W. McCall. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914. 303 p. \$3.00 net)

The most valuable episode in the life of Thomas B. Reed, and the best known, gives further proof to the generalization that social progress comes often through the needs of selfishness. For generations congress acted upon the assumption that a quorum to do business consists of those members present who are willing to vote; and that members by sitting silently in their seats may destroy a quorum, however numerous may be the physical presence of congressmen. Even Reed was a supporter of this old rule until necessity, in the fifty-first congress, drove him as speaker to count as present members who were in their seats, whether voting or not. The storm that broke over him as "Czar" upon this occasion, left him unpopular, but right; and in a few years more he saw the reasonable new rule given the sanction of his political opponents.

Mr. McCall makes much of this episode of Reed's speakership — let-